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08/250,791 05/27/94 KOSTRESKI

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COHEN, C EXAMINER

26M1/1113

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SUITE 300  
99 CANAL CENTER PLAZA  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2602

DATE MAILED: 11/13/95

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.  
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

☐ This application has been examined ☒ Responsive to communication filed on 8-30-95 ☒ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), 0 days from the date of this letter.  
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

- ☐ Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.
- ☐ Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☒ Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449. (5)
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152.
- ☐ Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474.
- ☐

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

- ☒ Claims 1-34 are pending in the application.  
Of the above, claims \_\_\_\_\_ are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ have been cancelled.
- ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are allowed.
- ☒ Claims 1-34 are rejected.
- ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are objected to.
- ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.
- ☐ This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.
- ☐ Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.
- ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on \_\_\_\_\_. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are ☐ acceptable; ☐ not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).
- ☐ The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on \_\_\_\_\_, has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner; ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed \_\_\_\_\_, has been ☐ approved; ☐ disapproved (see explanation).
- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☐ been received ☐ not been received ☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. \_\_\_\_\_; filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
- ☐ Other

EXAMINER'S ACTION

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Claims 1-13, 24-27 & 29-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Litteral et al. (provided by Applicant) in view of Palazzi, III et al. & U.S. Patent No. 4,982,430 (hereinafter "Freeza") (provided by applicant).

Referring to claims 1 & 7, Litteral et al. (Litteral) discloses (Figure 2) an enhanced public switched telephone network supporting two-way voice and data to subscribers in which digital data is transmitted under the control of a network management system (28) (see Figure 2) for sending and receiving control signals through interface modules (ADSL interface units & ISDN D channel interface) (Figure 2, elements 16, 18, 104, 124, 38); control unit (130) for receiving user inputs and providing

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control signals to the network management system (28); temporary storage (42) which stores the data received in response to a command; and, decoders (106 & 126) for performing the claimed audio/video processing (column 5, lines 11-17). Litteral fails to disclose: 1) programming the control of subsequent operations of the terminal including at least some audio/video processor operations and at least some responses to the user inputs; 2) control is carried out by downloaded software programs; and, 3) compressing/decompressing the broadband information. As for the first limitation, Palazzi, III et al. (Palazzi) discloses (column 9, lines 43-53) an interactive terminal for accessing remote database information in which the terminal may be programmed or reprogrammed by the host data base operator for instance to change for example, internal program operation, screen information, character generation fonts, functions associated with specific keys of a keypad, etc. Therefore, Palazzi discloses control of operations of the terminal including audio/video operations such as character fonts and screen information as well as controlling operations in response to user inputs such as the functions associated with the specific keys of the keypad as claimed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral as taught by Palazzi and control subsequent actions of the terminal so that future enhancements or functions may be easily and inexpensively

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implemented. As for the second limitation, Freeza discloses (column 4, lines 33-46) that it is old and well known in the art to control a subscriber terminal by downloading software into a memory (RAM). Although Palazzi discloses that the operations be performed in accordance with programming from the host database operator, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral & Palazzi as taught by Freeza and implement the new operations using downloaded software thereby making it possible for a system operator to upgrade the software in subscriber terminals remotely thereby saving time and money. As for the third limitation, the Examiner takes Official notice that it is old and well known in the art to perform compression/decompression algorithms on the data. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral, Palazzi & Freeza and include such compression/decompression processing in order to increase the amount of data capable of being stored.

Referring to claim 2, Litteral discloses (Figure 2 & column 5, lines 11-17) decoders (106 & 126) for decompressing the digital information including the digitized audio and video signals. Litteral fails to disclose a graphics overlay controller for generating graphic display information and means for combining the display information with the decompressed video signal. Teletext communication systems are old and well known in

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the art to include a graphics generator and controller as well as a mixer for combining the graphics information with video data. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral, Palazzi & Freeza and include a graphics overlay controller and combiner to provide enhance features such as receiving teletext or closed captioning data.

Referring to claim 3, Litteral specifically discloses (column 7, lines 38-43) the use of MPEG encoding techniques on the analog signal to convert the signal to digital format. Litteral also discloses (Figure 2 & column 5, lines 11-17) the use of decoders (106 & 126) for decompressing the digitized audio and video signals and a demultiplexer for separating the audio and video data (column 6, lines 57-58).

Referring to claim 4, Litteral discloses (Figure 2) that the decoders (106 & 126) (analogous to the claimed "audio/video processor") has output means to the subscriber terminals for driving a television receiver (108 & 128).

Referring to claims 5 & 8, Palazzi discloses (column 9, lines 43-53) an interactive terminal for accessing remote database information in which the terminal may be programmed or reprogrammed by the host data base operator for instance to change for example, internal program operation, screen information, character generation fonts, functions associated with specific keys of a keypad, etc. Therefore, Palazzi

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discloses controlling operations in response to user inputs such as the functions associated with the specific keys of the keypad as claimed. Such operations are application specific and therefore inherently would be carried out by application programs. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral & Freeza as taught by Palazzi and include application programming to provide enhanced features to the system by allowing the applications to be specifically designed for each database.

Referring to claims 6 & 9, Palazzi discloses (column 9, lines 43-53) an interactive terminal for accessing remote database information in which the terminal may be programmed or reprogrammed by the host data base operator for instance to change for example, internal program operation, screen information, character generation fonts, functions associated with specific keys of a keypad, etc. Therefore, Palazzi discloses control of operations of the terminal including audio/video operations such as character fonts and screen information. Such operations inherently involve the operating system functions and therefore would be executed using operating system programming. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral & Freeza as taught by Palazzi and include operating system programming to provide enhanced

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features to the system by allowing the overall functions of the system to be specifically designed for each database.

Referring to claim 10, Litteral discloses (column 10, lines 15-18) that it is old and well known in the art to prevent access to a database by requiring proper authorization before information is transmitted. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to expand this known function to the present situation in which information (in the particular case software) would not be transmitted until proper authorization or identification has been received for system security to prevent access to unauthorized users.

Referring to claim 11, the limitations are the as those addressed above with respect to independent claim 1 except for the following additional limitations: 1) providing a plurality of service providers; and, 2) writing over the previous software. As for the first limitation, Litteral discloses (Figure 2) a system including different service providers (142 & 162). As for the second limitation, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral, Palazzi & Freeza and rewrite over the existing software in memory in order to constantly refresh the memory.

Claim 12 differs from that of claim 11 in that more than one information provider may be accessed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral, Palazzi &

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Freeza and permit more than one information provider to be accessed to provide greater flexibility to the system.

Referring to claim 13, Litteral discloses (Figure 2 & column 10, lines 18-22) receiving a service provider selection as input to the terminal (100 & 120), establishing a two-way communication link between the terminal (100 & 120) and the gateway (32), and establishing a downstream, broadband, digital communication link between the terminal (100 & 120) and the VIP (142 & 162) so that stored data is sent to the DCS node (24).

Claims 24 & 25 have the same limitations as found in claims 1 & 7 which were addressed above and includes the further limitation of determining if the information service provider is authorized prior to downloading the information (software). Litteral discloses (column 10, lines 15-18) that it is old and well known in the art to prevent access to a database by requiring proper authorization before information is transmitted. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to expand this known function to the present situation in which information (in the particular case software) would not be transmitted until proper authorization or identification has been received for system security to prevent access to unauthorized users.

Referring to claim 26, the limitations are the same as those addressed above with respect to independent claim 1 except for



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the following additional limitations: 1) providing a plurality of service providers; and, 2) writing over the previous software. As for the first limitation, Litteral discloses (Figure 2) a system including different service providers (142 & 162). As for the second limitation, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral, Palazzi & Freeza and rewrite over the existing software in memory in order to constantly refresh the memory.

Claim 27 differs from that of claim 11 in that more than one information provider may be accessed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral, Palazzi & Freeza and permit more than one information provider to be accessed to provide greater flexibility to the system.

Referring to claim 29, Palazzi discloses (column 9, lines 43-53) an interactive terminal for accessing remote database information in which the terminal may be programmed or reprogrammed by the host data base operator for instance to change for example, internal program operation, screen information, character generation fonts, functions associated with specific keys of a keypad, etc. Therefore, Palazzi discloses control of operations of the terminal including audio/video operations such as character fonts and screen information as well as controlling operations in response to user inputs such as the functions associated with the specific keys of

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the keypad as claimed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral & Freeza as taught by Palazzi and control subsequent actions of the terminal so that future enhancements or functions may be easily and inexpensively implemented. Litteral & Palazzi fail to disclose that the software is stored. Freeza discloses (column 4, lines 33-46) that it is old and well known in the art to control a subscriber terminal by downloading software into a memory (RAM). Although Palazzi discloses that the operations be performed in accordance with programming from the host database operator, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral & Palazzi as taught by Freeza and implement the new operations using downloaded software thereby making it possible for a system operator to upgrade the software in subscriber terminals remotely.

Referring to claim 30, the limitations are the same as those addressed above with respect to independent claim 28 except for the following additional limitations: 1) providing a plurality of service providers; and, 2) writing over the previous software. As for the first limitation, Litteral discloses (Figure 2) a system including different service providers (142 & 162). As for the second limitation, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral, Palazzi & Freeza

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and rewrite over the existing software in memory in order to constantly refresh the memory.

Claim 31 differs from that of claim 28 in that more than one information provider may be accessed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral, Palazzi & Freeza and permit more than one information provider to be accessed to provide greater flexibility to the system.

Referring to claim 32, Litteral et al. (Litteral) discloses (Figure 2) an enhanced public switched telephone network supporting two-way voice and data from a plurality of video information providers (142 & 162) to a plurality of subscriber terminals (100 & 120) in which digital data is transmitted under the control of a network management system (28) (see Figure 2) for sending and receiving control signals through interface modules (ADSL interface units & ISDN D channel interface) (Figure 2, elements 16, 18, 104, 124, 38); control unit (130) for receiving user inputs from a remote control (132) and providing control signals to the network management system (28); temporary storage (42) which stores the data received in response to a command; and, decoders (106 & 126) for performing the claimed audio/video processing (column 5, lines 11-17). Litteral fails to disclose: 1) programming the control of subsequent operations of the terminal including at least some audio/video processor operations and at least some responses to the user inputs; and,

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2) control is carried out by stored software programs. As for the first limitation, Palazzi, III et al. (Palazzi) discloses (column 9, lines 43-53) an interactive terminal for accessing remote database information in which the terminal may be programmed or reprogrammed by the host data base operator for instance to change for example, internal program operation, screen information, character generation fonts, functions associated with specific keys of a keypad, etc. Therefore, Palazzi discloses control of operations of the terminal including audio/video operations such as character fonts and screen information as well as controlling operations in response to user inputs such as the functions associated with the specific keys of the keypad as claimed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral as taught by Palazzi and control subsequent actions of the terminal so that future enhancements or functions may be easily and inexpensively implemented. As for the second limitation, Freeza discloses (column 4, lines 33-46) that it is old and well known in the art to control a subscriber terminal by downloading software into a memory (RAM). Although Palazzi discloses that the operations be performed in accordance with programming from the host database operator, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral & Palazzi as taught by Freeza and implement the new operations using downloaded software thereby

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making it possible for a system operator to upgrade the software in subscriber terminals remotely.

Referring to claim 33, Litteral discloses (Figure 2) video storage (144 & 146) for storing the compressed digital data and a gateway (32). Litteral fails to disclose that the server also stores the predetermined data. Yugami discloses that it is old and well known in the art to use stored programming algorithms to perform certain functions. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral & Palazzi as taught by Freeza and stored the predetermined data (software) so that the same operations or functions will always be executed.

Referring to claim 34, Litteral discloses (see abstract) the use of a public switched telephone network (PSTN) as the communication network.

2. Claims 14-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Litteral et al. (provided by Applicant) in view of Palazzi, III et al.

Referring to claim 14, Litteral et al. (Litteral) discloses (Figure 2) an enhanced public switched telephone network supporting two-way voice and data from a plurality of video information providers (142 & 162) to a plurality of subscriber terminals (100 & 120) in which digital data is transmitted under the control of a network management system (28) (see Figure 2)

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for sending and receiving control signals through interface modules (ADSL interface units & ISDN D channel interface) (Figure 2, elements 16, 18, 104, 124, 38); control unit (130) for receiving user inputs from a remote control (132) and providing control signals to the network management system (28); and, decoders (106 & 126) for performing the claimed audio/video processing (column 5, lines 11-17). Litteral fails to disclose: 1) the claimed system memory; 2) graphics overlay controller and means for combining; and, 3) performing compression/decompression processing on the broadband information. As for the first limitation, Palazzi, discloses (column 6, lines 22-42) a memory device in the CPU for storing programming information in a ROM and a RAM. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral as taught by Palazzi and store the programming information for future retrieval by the CPU to control the operation of the system. As for the second limitation, teletext communication systems are old and well known in the art to include a graphics generator and controller as well as a mixer for combining the graphics information with video data. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral & Palazzi and include a graphics overlay controller and combiner to provide enhance features such as receiving teletext or closed captioning data. As for the third limitation, the Examiner takes Official notice that it is old and

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well known in the art to perform compression/decompression algorithms on the data. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral & Palazzi and include such compression/decompression processing in order to increase the amount of data capable of being stored.

Referring to claim 15, Litteral discloses (Figure 2) ADSL interfaces (104 & 124) which are coupled to the decoders (106 & 126), respectively. Litteral fails to specifically disclose that the interface modules are replaceably detachable. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral & Palazzi and use replaceably detachable interface modules so that may changed so that the appropriate interface may be selected for use with different peripheral devices.

Referring to claim 16, Litteral specifically discloses (column 7, lines 38-43) the use of MPEG encoding techniques on the analog signal to convert the signal to digital format. Litteral also discloses (Figure 2 & column 5, lines 11-17) the use of decoders (106 & 126) for decompressing the digitized audio and video signals and a demultiplexer for separating the audio and video data (column 6, lines 57-58).

Referring to claim 17, Litteral discloses (Figure 2) that the decoders (106 & 126) (analogous to the claimed "audio/video processor") has output means to the subscriber terminals for driving a television receiver (108 & 128).

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Referring to claim 18, Litteral discloses (column 5, lines 11-17) DAC for converting the decompressed video and audio signals to analog form for display at the subscriber terminal.

Referring to claims 19 & 20, Litteral discloses (Figure 2) a control unit (130) for receiving infrared signal from remote control (132).

Referring to claim 21, serial data transceiver ports are old and well known in the art and therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral & Palazzi for receiving serial data transmissions.

Referring to claim 22, magnetic card readers are old and well known in the art therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral & Palazzi and include a magnetic card reader to charge a subscriber for transmitted information.

Referring to claim 23, memory card interface ports are old and well known in the art and therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral & Palazzi and include a memory interface port so that detachable memory devices may be used with the device for easy upgrading of the system.



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3. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Litteral et al. (provided by Applicant) in view of U.S. Patent 4,982,430 (hereinafter "Freeza").

Referring to claim 28, Litteral discloses (see abstract and Figure 2) an enhanced public switched telephone network supporting broadband digital audio/video data transmission between subscriber terminals and a plurality of video information providers (142 & 162). Litteral fails to disclose: 1) determining if the operating system is compatible to that previously stored, if the software is compatible, supplying the software to the CPU; and, 2) if the software is not compatible, downloading new operating system software. As for the first limitation, it is old and well known in the art that different devices operate on different operating systems and that in order for two systems to communicate the operating systems must be compatible. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral and determine if the operating system is compatible so that the two devices can properly communicate. As for the second limitation, Freeza teaches (column 4, lines 33-46) that it is old and well known in the art to modify a terminal by downloading software from a remote location. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral as taught by Freeza and

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modify the incompatible software from a remote terminal in order to reduce the time to upgrade the software since you no longer need to send someone out to the location and save money since hardware no longer would require replacement.

4. Applicant's arguments filed on August 30, 1995 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

A. Applicant statement, set forth in the "Remarks" on page 6, lines 6-8, that "Palazzi, II et al. neither discloses nor suggests the claimed features of controlling the reception of digital broadband data using downloaded software" is not convincing. As set forth in the rejection above, Litteral fails to disclose: 1) programming the control of subsequent operations of the terminal including at least some audio/video processor operations and at least some responses to the user inputs; and, 2) controlling by downloaded software. As for the first limitation, Palazzi discloses (column 9, lines 43-53) an interactive terminal for accessing remote database information in which the terminal may be programmed or reprogrammed by the host data base operator for instance to change for example, internal program operation, screen information, character generation fonts, functions associated with specific keys of a keypad, etc. Therefore, Palazzi discloses control of operations of the

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terminal including audio/video operations such as character fonts and screen information as well as controlling operations in response to user inputs such as the functions associated with the specific keys of the keypad as claimed. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral as taught by Palazzi and control subsequent actions of the terminal so that future enhancements or functions may be easily and inexpensively implemented. As for the second limitation, Freeza discloses (column 4, lines 33-46) that it is old and well known in the art to control a subscriber terminal by downloading software into a memory (RAM). Although Palazzi discloses that the operations be performed in accordance with programming from the host database operator, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral & Palazzi as taught by Freeza and implement the new operations using downloaded software thereby making it possible for a system operator to upgrade the software in subscriber terminals remotely thereby saving time and money.

Therefore, the Examiner has clearly set forth a prima facie case of obviousness and provided clear motivation as disclosed by Freeza (column 2, lines 1-14 and column 4, lines 33-37). Applicant's assertion that Palazzi is non-analogous art is likewise not persuasive. Palazzi discloses an interactive distribution system including subscriber terminals analogous to

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the distribution system and terminals set forth in the claimed invention.

B. Applicant's assertion with respect to claim 28 is likewise not convincing. Applicant states in the "Remarks" on page 9, that "any compatibility problems would more likely be solved in the prior art by indicating to a user that transmission could not be completed, thereafter instructing the user to request an upgrade, typically by replacing an EPROM or receiving in the mail a set of floppy diskettes. Alternatively, a technician may come to perform hardware modifications on the set top box." However, Freeza teaches (column 4, lines 33-46) that it is old and well known in the art to modify a terminal by downloading software from a remote location. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Litteral as taught by Freeza and modify the incompatible software from a remote terminal in order to save time and money.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See M.P.E.P. § 609 & 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION

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IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

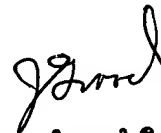
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Cohen whose telephone number is (703) 308-5080. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jim Groody, can be reached on (703) 305-4702. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-9509.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.



Cheryl Cohen  
November 7, 1995



James J. Groody  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
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